

Appln No. 09/785,643

Amdt date March 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 17, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his attention to this case.

Claims 1-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,233,565 issued to Lewis et al. (Lewis et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,477 issued to Berson (Berson).

Pursuant to the Examiner's note on page 13 of the Office action, Lewis et al. and Berson have been fully considered in their entirety as to potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passages as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In general, Applicant submits that Lewis et al. discloses a system for generating a "receipt" for a financial transaction. Lewis et al. disclose that this receipt may be used for a variety of purposes. However, the system of Lewis et al. does not include any mechanism for validating the receipt. Instead, the only reference to using the receipt is by exploiting the uniqueness of each receipt which allows a plurality of receipts to be used for postage or ticketing purposes. Berson discloses a ticketing system wherein validation of the ticket is achieved through exclusive use of encrypted information printed onto the ticket.

As will become apparent in the following remarks, neither Lewis et al. nor Berson, either alone or in combination, disclose storing value bearing indicium data in a validation information database and determining a validity status for the

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value bearing indicium data using the validation information database as called for in Applicant's claimed invention.

With regard to claims 1, 19, and 39, each of these claims call for ...receiving validation information from an end-user's machine via the computer network, generating value bearing indicium data using the validation information, storing the value bearing indicium data in a validation information database,...receiving the value bearing indicium data from a scanning machine via the computer network, determining a validity status for the value bearing indicium data using the validation information database, and transmitting the validity status to the scanning machine.

Applicant submits that the invention as claimed in claims 1, 19, and 39 is neither taught, described, nor suggested by Lewis et al., even in view of Berson. In fact, Berson teaches away from the Applicant's method of validating a value bearing indicium.

Lewis et al. describe a system for generating a receipt for an electronic transaction. The receipt may include an encrypted indicium which may be "scanned at the point of consumption, e.g., when the package enters the mailstream or the shipping company system, or the customer enters the facility where the sporting event or concert occurs. Because each receipt is unique, a duplicate (and thus a fraudulently obtained copy) can be easily detected...". As admitted in the Office action, there is no provision in the disclosure of Lewis et al. for storing the value bearing indicium data in a **validation information**

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**database and determining** a validity status for the value bearing indicium data **using the validation information database.**

In the Office action, it is proposed that Berson discloses a system having both a validation information database and using the validation information database to validate a value bearing indicium. However, the Applicant respectfully submits Berson discloses neither. In Berson, a ticket is created having a field including sufficient information to enable automatic reconciliation of the ticket. The information may be fully encrypted or digitally signed. Validation of the ticket is performed by using **only** the information included in the ticket, either automatically or by an operator. Only **after** the ticket has been validated does the validating system then download information to **reconcile** the ticket. There is no suggestion in Berson that the information used in reconciling the ticket is used to validate the ticket. Instead, validation is a necessary precondition to accessing the information used during reconciliation.

In addition, Lewis et al. do not disclose transmitting the validity status **to** the scanning machine as called for in claim 1. In the Office action, it is proposed that Berson discloses such an operation. However, Berson instead **teaches away** from such an operation as the validating system performs the validation step at the same location where the ticket is proffered. As the validating system includes the means for scanning the ticket, there is no need to transmit a validation status within the validating system to a scanning system.

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With regard to claims 4, 14, 20, 34, and 40, each of these claims calls for ...the validity status of the value bearing indicium data is determined to be invalid if the value bearing indicium data is not found in the validation information database.

Applicant submits that the invention as claimed in claims 4, 14, 20, 34, and 40, is neither taught, described, nor suggested by Lewis et al., even in view of Berson.

In the Office action, it is proposed that Lewis et al. at Col. 15, lines 45-55 disclose such a feature. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that those portions of the disclosure of Lewis et al. describe a feature of a **user** validation process and not a feature of a **value bearing indicium data** validation process. As such, those portions of the disclosure of Lewis et al. are not relevant to Applicant's invention as claimed.

With regard to claims 5, 15, 21, 35, and 41, each claim calls for ...the validity status of the value bearing indicium data is determined to be redeemed if the value bearing indicium data is found in the validation information database and the value bearing indicium data has been previously redeemed.

Applicant submits that the invention as claimed in claims 5, 15, 21, 35, and 41, is neither taught, described, nor suggested by Lewis et al., even in view of Berson.

In the Office action, it is proposed that Lewis et al. at Col. 18, lines 1-10 disclose determining a validity status of a value bearing indicium as being redeemed if the value bearing indicium data is found in the validation information database

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and the value bearing indicium data has been previously redeemed. The Applicant respectfully submits that no such determination is disclosed in that portion of Lewis et al. Instead, Lewis et al. are describing confirming that a transaction has taken place at Col. 18, lines 1-10. This transaction is the transaction memorialized by the receipt of Lewis et al. and is a step that happens **after** generation of the receipt but **before** validation. As such, this transaction operation has nothing to do with validation of the receipt. In addition, in the Office action it is admitted that Lewis et al. do not disclose either a validation information database or using the validation information database to determine the validity of a value bearing indicium. Therefore, Lewis et al. cannot be now said to disclose both a validation information database and a specific method for using the validation information database.

With regard to claim 12, claim 12 calls for ...generating a message digest by hashing a first subset of the validation information, generating a digital signature from the message digest, and generating a bar code from a second subset of the validation information.

Applicant submits that the invention as claimed in claim 12 is neither taught, described, nor suggested by Lewis et al., even in view of Berson.

In the Office action, it is proposed that Lewis et al. discloses generating a message digest by hashing at Col 5, lines 10-25. The Applicant respectfully submits that those portions of Lewis et al. describe portions of a **user** authentication

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process, specifically authenticating a client to a server in order to perform a secure transaction. Therefore, it cannot be fairly said the Lewis et al. disclose generating value bearing indicium data by generating a message digest by hashing a first subset of the validation information, generating a digital signature from the message digest, and generating a bar code from a second subset of the validation information.

With regard to claim 13, the Applicant submits that the remarks presented above in support of claim 1 are applicable to claim 13 as well. Specifically, claim 13 calls for ... storing the ticket in the validation information database,...receiving the ticket from a scanning machine by the ticket server via the computer network, and determining a validity status for the ticket by the ticket server using the validation information database. As noted above, neither Lewis et al. nor Berson disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, the **use of a validation information database** to determine a validity status of a ticket.

With regard to claims 16, 30, 36, and 43, the Applicant submits that the remarks submitted above in support of claim 12 is applicable to claims 16, 30, 36, and 43. Specifically, the authentication procedures and system described in Lewis et al. are for authenticating a client to a server and do not apply to any portion of Applicant's methods for generating a value bearing indicium in the form of a ticket.

With regard to claim 33, the applicant submits that the remarks made above in support of claim 1 are applicable to claim 33 as well. Specifically, neither Lewis et al. nor Berson,



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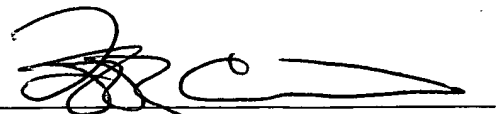
either alone or in combination, disclose storing value bearing indicium data in a validation information database and determining a validity status for the value bearing indicium data using the validation information database as called for in claim 33.

With regard to remaining dependent claims 2, 3, 6-11, 17, 18, 22-29, 31, 32, 37, 38, 42, 44-46, each of these claims are dependent from their respective independent claims and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable for the same reasons set forth hereinbefore as well as for the additional limitations recited.

As the independent claims and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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